

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 8
999 18TH STREET - SUITE 300
DENVER, CO 80202-2466
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

July 2, 2003

Ref: 8EPR-SR

Mr. D.C. Orr
1117 Nevada Ave
Libby, MT 59923

RE: Libby, MT Environmental Complaint

Dear Mr. Orr:

The complaint you recently filed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Website (www.epa.gov) was referred to the Region 8 Superfund Program for response. Your complaint was regarding the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site, specifically the area of the former export plant.

The EPA Libby Site Team is well aware of the disturbance of vermiculite and asbestos materials that occurred during the construction of the boat ramp near the former export plant. The City of Libby and their construction crews did nothing wrong in excavating this area. While it is unfortunate that work did not stop immediately when the contaminated materials were encountered, work was nonetheless stopped reasonably quickly and several actions were taken to prevent or minimize further disturbance and short-term exposures. EPA plans to clean up the area this year. EPA is currently reviewing our options, both legal and technical, regarding future work at this location. We are also in contact with representatives from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality regarding other environmental issues such as erosion control.

In your complaint, you also mentioned past cleanup work and legal settlements for the former export plant that involved the City of Libby, U.S. EPA, W.R. Grace, and Millworks West. Pursuant to your prior complaints on this issue, Region 8 referred the matter to the EPA Inspector General (IG) for investigation last year. They are currently investigating and will make their findings public in the future. Until then, we will not comment on the issue.



Thank you for your concern and interest in the Libby Superfund Site. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact the Libby Project Manager, Jim Christiansen, at (303) 312-6748 or the Libby Site Attorney, Matthew Cohn, at (303) 312-6578.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Vodehnal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dale" being more prominent and the last name "Vodehnal" written in a continuous script.

Dale Vodehnal
Remedial Program Manager